

# Shoot your boat like a pro, with a phone

Good photos are the single biggest thing you control. As you upload, the Liveaboard HQ listing flow checks every photo for focus, light, and resolution, and flags anything too dark or too soft so you can retake it while you are still aboard. A typical boat needs roughly two to three dozen photos to publish: several of the exterior and the saloon, a few of the galley, and one or two of each cabin, head, engine, and system. Twin engines or a second head raise the count. Here is how to get it right the first time.

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## Before you start

- Declutter every space you plan to shoot. Clear countertops, berths, and the cockpit, stow loose gear, coil the lines, and put personal items away.
- Let the light in. Open every blind, hatch, and port, and turn on the interior lights. A bright cabin photographs far better than a dim one.
- Wipe down. A quick pass over surfaces, glass, and stainless reads as a well-kept boat.
- Pick a calm, overcast day if you can. Flat daylight is kinder to a boat than hard midday sun.

## Shoot the exterior

Walk the boat and capture her from every side.

- All sides from a distance: bow, stern, and both profiles, ideally from the dock or a dinghy so the whole hull is in frame.
- The waterline and topsides, so buyers can read the condition of the hull.
- The deck and cockpit: the helm, the seating, the hatches, and the deck underfoot.
- Deck hardware up close: winches, cleats, the windlass, and the rigging where it lands on deck.

## Shoot the interior

Shoot each room from a corner. Standing in the corner gets the whole space in one frame and makes a cabin feel as big as it is.

- The saloon, wide, from two opposite corners.
- The galley, wide enough to show the counter, stove, sink, and fridge together.
- Every cabin and every berth, each from its doorway or corner.
- Every head, wide enough to show the whole compartment.

## Shoot the systems

The mechanical spaces sell a well-found boat. Bring a work light or headlamp: engine rooms and lockers are dark, and a bright, sharp shot of clean machinery builds real trust.

- The engine, from a couple of angles. Shoot each engine on its own if you have twins.
- The electrical panel, the batteries, the charger, and the inverter.
- The tanks, the plumbing, and the bilge.
- Every system with more than one unit gets its own photo, so a buyer can see each one. Photograph each engine, head, and battery bank separately.

## Light and timing

- Shoot in daylight. Overcast is ideal, because it removes harsh shadows.
- For exteriors, the hour after sunrise or before sunset is the most flattering light on the water.
- Keep the horizon level and hold the phone steady. Brace against a shroud or a bulkhead in low light.
- Shoot landscape for spaces and profiles. Save portrait for tall, narrow details.

## Common mistakes to avoid

- Dark engine-room and locker shots. Add a work light and re-take. The flow will flag these anyway.
- Shooting toward a bright window, which throws the whole cabin into shadow. Put the light behind you.
- Leaving clutter, cleaning supplies, or personal items in the frame.
- Soft, blurry photos from a moving hand. Steady the phone and tap to focus before the shot.
- Tiny or heavily filtered images. The tool may gently correct exposure, but it never fakes or hides anything, so skip the filters and shoot sharp.